

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-4 and 7-12 is acknowledged with appreciation. These claims have been maintained in dependent form in view of the allowability of base Claim 1 as discussed hereinafter.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Claim 1 has been amended to address the alleged informality and to clarify the invention intended to be claimed. The dependent claims have also been editorially revised for clarity. At least as presently amended, Claim 1 distinguishes patentably from U.S. Patent No. 6,026,014 to Sato et al. (Sato), which was cited as the basis for the outstanding rejection.

As amended, Claim 1 more particularly recites that the sense latch circuit has a first node and a second node, wherein the first node is connected to one end of the bit line. Claim 1 further recites that the MOSFET connected between the bit line and the sense latch circuit has a gate coupled to receive the data on the bit line and that the MOSFET drives the second node of the sense latch circuit. A bit line precharge circuit is connected to the bit line and

precharges the bit line. A power supply circuit is connected to the bit line precharge circuit and generates precharge voltage for the bit line according to a threshold voltage of the MOSFET.

The deficiencies of Sato relative to Claim 1 are readily apparent. For example, Sato does not disclose the claimed MOSFET having its gate coupled to receive data on a bit line (See Sato, Fig. 4, gate of MOSFET Qp1 not coupled to bit line Blu). Further, Sato does not teach a power supply circuit connected to the bit line precharge circuit and generating precharge voltage for the bit line according to the threshold voltage of such a MOSFET.

Claim 13 has been added to provide an additional protection for the Applicants' invention. Clearly, the combination of features recited in Claim 13 is not disclosed or suggested by Sato.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this application be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

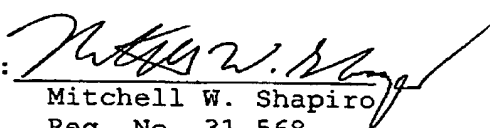
Respectfully submitted,

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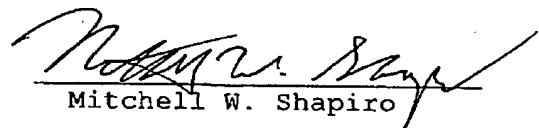
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